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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 6 totaled an estimated 16.7 billion ton-miles, 6.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1985 week included Good Friday.

Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 237.0 billion ton-miles, down 4.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 6 totaled 364,086, down 8.9 percent from last year, and 8.4 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 11.7 percent in the East, 3.7 percent in the South and 9.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 19 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 1,959 cars (18.2 percent). Nineteen of 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 30 totaled 90,197 trailers and/or containers, 4.1 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 13 weeks of the year was 1,085,268 trailers and/or containers, down 4.2 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/6/85

	Loadings in Week ended April 6, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,275	D	9,138	31.1	D	2,075	9.3
Other farm products	2,893	D	1,388	32.4	D	276	8.7
Metallic ores	13,660	D	1,511	10.0	D	248	1.8
Coal	107,403	D	5,833	5.2	D	11,962	10.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,741	I	1,959	18.2	I	978	8.3
Nonmetallic minerals	9,107	D	2,135	19.0	D	2,453	21.2
Grain mill products	9,203	D	1,161	11.2	D	1,728	15.8
Food and kindred products	10,823	I	4	0.0	D	561	4.9
Primary forest products	11,850	D	2,112	15.1	D	682	5.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,476	D	1,046	13.9	D	1,205	15.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,964	D	1,215	8.0	D	963	6.5
Chemicals and allied products	24,753	D	56	0.2	D	2,670	9.7
Petroleum products	4,142	D	1,038	20.0	D	536	11.5
Stone, clay and glass products	10,690	D	491	4.4	D	671	5.9
Coke	5,284	D	350	6.2	I	66	1.3
Metals and products	8,998	D	1,906	17.5	D	924	9.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,333	D	1,964	9.2	D	3,303	14.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,540	D	1,526	15.2	D	1,433	14.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,289	D	1,745	21.7	D	664	9.5
All other carloads	57,531	D	2,707	4.5	D	2,109	3.5
LCL traffic	131	D	140	51.7	D	16	10.9
Total Cars Loaded	364,086	D	35,499	8.9	D	33,435	8.4
Corresponding week of 1984	399,585						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (14 weeks)	5,127,782	5,446,490	D 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
13 Weeks ended March 30	220.4	231.1	D 4.7
Week ended April 6	16.7	17.8	D 6.7
14 weeks cumulative	237.0	249.0	D 4.8

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